

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9508

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, UK, UR, ENRG

SUBJECT: "NORTH STAR" LNG PROJECT IN USSR

REF: (A) STATE 49968, (B) LONDON 1655, (C) MOSCOW 1771

1. UK GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT THUS FAR IN "NORTH STAR" CONSISTS OF AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO MAKE CREDITS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FROM UK FIRMS. AMOUNTS AND TERMS HAVE NOT BEEN DISCUSSED AND GOVERNMENT IS NOW WAITING TO HEAR FROM US CONSORTIUM BEFORE APPROACHING POTENTIAL UK SUPPLIERS.

2. ACCORDING TO DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, REPRESENTATIVES OF US CONSORTIUM VISITED LONDON IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR TO DETERMINE WHETHER UK GOVERNMENT CREDITS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE UNDER THE 950 MILLION POUND CREDIT LINE EXTENDED TO THE USSR IN 1975. GOVERNMENT AGREE-
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MENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS GIVEN AT THAT TIME FOR PURCHASES FROM UK COMPANIES. THE TOTAL VALUE OF EXPECTED EQUIPMENT PURCHASES FOR PROJECT WAS PUT AT 1.6 BILLION POUNDS BY CONSORTIUM, BUT UK SHARE AND FINANCIAL TERMS WERE APPARENTLY NOT DISCUSSED IN ANY DETAIL. CONSORTIUM REPRESENTATIVES WERE MOST INTERESTED IN PURCHASES FROM UK OF TURBINES, COMPRESSORS AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. THEY ASKED THAT THERE BE NO PUBLICITY AND NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH UK COMPANIES UNTIL THE PROJECT BECAME MORE DEFINITE.

3. COMMENT. UKG IS OBVIOUSLY ANXIOUS TO HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL SHARE OF THE PURCHASES FOR ITS INDUSTRY. BUT CONSIDERS THE BALL TO BE IN THE CONSORTIUM'S COURT AT THE PRESENT TIME.

SPIERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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